

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the listing below.

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) [[A]] The polyester polymerization catalyst according to any one of claims 12 and 14, containing an aluminum compound and further comprising a phosphorus compound, wherein the catalyst is obtained by mixing the aluminum compound and the phosphorus compound in a solvent.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A polyester polymerization catalyst comprising a solution containing an aluminum compound, wherein the aluminum compound has a peak of aluminum at chemically shifted position as compared with solution containing the aluminum compound alone a ratio of the integrated value of the peaks appearing in a range of -15 to 30 ppm in a measurement of ^{27}Al -NMR spectrum of the solution to the integrated value of standard peaks in a measurement of ^{27}Al -NMR spectrum of the aluminum compound alone is 0.3 or higher.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim [[8]] 12, wherein the solvent of the solution is at least one selected from [[a]] the group consisting of water and alkylene glycols.

15. (Currently amended) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst is produced by mixing under previous formation of a solution or slurry of at least one of the aluminum compound and the phosphorus compound.

16. (Previously presented) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the aluminum compound and the phosphorus compound previously heated in a solvent is used.

17. (Currently amended) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the solution or a slurry containing the aluminum compound and the phosphorus compound is treated by heating.

18. (Currently amended) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the aluminum compound ~~include~~ includes at least one compound selected from the group consisting of aluminum acetate, basic aluminum acetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, and aluminum acetylacetonate.

19. (Currently amended) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the phosphorus compound ~~include~~ includes at least one compound selected from the group consisting of phosphonic acid compounds, phosphinic acid compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, phosphonous acid compounds, phosphinous acid compounds, and phosphine compounds.

20-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the solvent of the solution is at least one selected from the group consisting of water and alkylene glycols.

25. (New) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 12 or 14, wherein the solution is an ethylene glycol solution produced by a solvent replacement method comprising once dissolving the aluminum compound in water, adding ethylene glycol to the resulting aqueous solution, and removing water by heating from the obtained solution containing the water/ethylene glycol mixed solvent.

26. (New) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 25, wherein the solvent replacement method is carried out at 55 to 105°C.

27. (New) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 25, wherein the solvent replacement method is carried out in a reduced pressure.

28. (New) The polyester polymerization catalyst according to claim 12 or 14, wherein the aluminum compound includes at least one compound selected from the group consisting of aluminum acetate, basic aluminum acetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, and aluminum acetylacetonate.